

HOUSE RESOLUTION 359

By Helton

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend 340B entities providing health care to vulnerable Tennesseans.

WHEREAS, enacted in 1992 by the federal government, the 340B Drug Pricing Program is intended to permit eligible safety-net providers to stretch scarce federal resources as far as possible, reaching more eligible patients and providing more comprehensive services; and

WHEREAS; under the 340B Drug Pricing Program, covered entities obtain discounted prices for certain medications and provide them to an eligible patient regardless of the eligible patient's healthcare payor source, unless the source is Medicaid; and

WHEREAS, the 340B Drug Pricing Program is designed to provide a pricing benefit to safety-net providers with the intent that providers use the savings to reinvest in their programs and enhance medical services to uninsured and underinsured patients; and

WHEREAS, for more than twenty-five years, the 340B Drug Pricing Program has provided financial help to eligible safety-net hospitals and clinics serving Tennessee's most vulnerable patients, the uninsured, and the underinsured, such as children battling cancer and people living with HIV; and

WHEREAS, there are approximately 684 registered safety-net covered entities that participate in the 340B Drug Pricing Program, including 610 grantees composed of community health centers, Ryan White HIV clinics, tuberculosis clinics, and seventy-four hospitals; and

WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 crisis, 340B entities have been providing care to indigent patients all over the State because of the savings they receive through the 340B Drug Pricing Program, and, without these savings, these entities would not be able to provide free testing and other services during these unprecedented times; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED

ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor and commend the 340B entities providing health care to vulnerable Tennesseans and that we show support for all legislative efforts, including House Bill No. 1890, that seek to assist such entities in their life-saving work.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.